

*"When I approach a child, he inspires me in two sentiments; tenderness for what he is, and respect for what he may become." This passage by Louis Pasteur, a world renowned microbiologist, lends voice to my heart when I am in the presence of a child. Each child is an inspiring individual, existing only to be loved and accepted into this world. As adults and former children, we must never lose the essence of what it is like to be a child. The wonder, the possibility, the delight in learning about the people we live around and the world we live in. The contagious smile of a child gives us hope in a world that sometimes seems to be falling apart. To protect, love, encourage, and return that same hope is the epitome of all that a teacher should possess.*

*James Baldwin said "Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but have never failed to imitate them." Children imitate what they see, and particularly what they see from the people they respect the most. Being an excellent role model for children is very important. Patience, integrity, good communication skills, consistent action, trust, passion, and ethical values are essential characterizations of a teacher. Teachers must possess positive attitudes, with a willingness to listen, be respectful, and open minded at all times. I believe that ethically all children should be respected and each difference should be valued, whether that is spiritual beliefs, ethnicity, social and economical status, or learning abilities. That is the type of quality character that all children should see in their teacher and imitate in order to be successful in our global society.*

*I believe that a child's desire to learn should be embraced fully. The desire to learn should be what makes school fun, and exciting. I believe that learning can be fun and exciting; it does not have to be mundane and lifeless. I believe that life application is an essential part of what can make learning fun. Incorporating play, movement, involvement, hands on activity, bright colors, creativity, and the world outside the four walls of a classroom can turn a dull lesson into a lesson to look forward to. I am very excited and passionate about learning myself, and that will rub off onto the students I teach, even if they have had less than desirable learning experiences in the past. Knowledge brings us to enlightenment about the world we live in in all aspects. It is essential to being a healthy individual.*

*As an educator I must know my students. I believe in developing rapport and mutual respect. Teachers must be involved in school events, must discuss these and any other issues or activities their students present. Relating to my students is important to me. I am not above them, below them, in front of, or behind them. My desire is to be beside them, working with them, and enabling them to feel comfortable with me as their teacher.*

*I will never give up on a child. No matter what the difficulty, no matter how long it takes, I will ensure that each student truly learns the material at hand. I will patiently handle frustrations because of who I am not how I feel at that moment. Every child is capable of learning and it is up to the teacher to combine methods, to assess, and review to make sure each and every child understands.*

*When I approach each child I will be approaching a tender life, full of expectancy and wonder, a future adult of our society. As Gandhi said, I will "be the change I wish to see in the world."*